

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 01932 292028Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 DHA-02 IGA-02 EB-07
AID-05 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00
HEW-06 SSO-00 INRE-00 /067 W
-----292037Z 125954 /73

O R 291940Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5079
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 1932

DEPT FOR OFDA, AID, ARA/CAR; GENEVA PASS UNDRO; OTTAWA FOR CIDA

EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: EAID, SWEL, HA
SUBJECT: DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) STATE 123654, (B) STATE 122158, (C) PORT AU PRINCE 1845

1. SITUATION REPORT- IT IS RAINING ALL OVER HAITI
TODAY AND HAS BEEN RAINING FOR PAST MONTH. SPRING
RAINS ARE GENERALLY GOOD. DROUGHT HAS BEEN BROKEN.
CROPS HAVE BEEN PLANTED. HARVEST MAY BE SMALLER
THAN NORMAL IN SOME AREAS WHICH DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH
SEED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF RAIN. WE WILL NEED EXPANDED
FEEDING PROGRAM FOR AT LEAST NEXT THREE MONTHS AND
POSSIBLY LONGER. ASSESSMENT IS CONSTANT CONTINUING
PROCESS INVOLVING ALL ELEMENTS OF MISSION, UN AND
OTHER DONORS. WE ARE REQUESTING ADDITIONAL HELP
2. REF A, PARA 2: GROS MORNE AREA--USAID AND CWS
CALLING FORWARD 210 METRIC TONS BAGGED CORN (REF B)
FOR DISTRIBUTION THIS AREA BY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE.
THIS ORGANIZATION ALREADY WORKING WITH CWS ON FOOD
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DISTRIBUTION ON LA GONAVE ISLAND. WE ARE WORKING ON
POSSIBILITY ADDING VEGOIL BORROWED FROM CARE
OR CWS TO PROVIDE BETTER RATION. 210 MT WILL PROVIDE ONE POUNC
CORN PER PERSON PER DAY TO APPROXIMATELY 15,500 PEOPLE,
FOR ONE MONTH. THIS HELPS BUT OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT
PROVIDE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM IN GROS MORNE AREA
EVEN WHEN SMALL ONGOING PROGRAMS IN AREA TAKEN

INTO ACCOUNT. GOH CARD OFFICIAL HAS INDICATED THEY WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS TO DONORS ON THIS AREA EARLY WEEK OF MAY 30. MAIN PROBLEM IS STILL TO BUILD UP DISTRIBUTION NET. MAY NEED FUNDING TO HIRE SOME DISTRIBUTION SUPERVISORS WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH AREA.

3. EMBASSY ECONOMIC OFFICER ASSESSED SITUATION AS ADEQUATE FOOD STOCKS IN TOWN OF GROS MORNE AND OTHER TOWNS THAT AREA BUT SECOND HAND REPORTS INDICATE FOOD CRISIS SEVERE IN MOUNTAINS AROUND GROS MORNE AND BASIN BLEU. MISSION HAS ALREADY TAKEN LEAD IN IDENTIFYING THIS AREA AS NOT RECEIVING ADEQUATE FOOD SUPPORT, HAS IDENTIFIED PROBLEM AS PRIMARILY ORGANIZATIONAL AND HAS TAKEN LEAD IN TRYING TO FIND ORGANIZATIONS THAT CAN ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION. WE HAVE TRIED TO IDENTIFY EXACT REQUIREMENTS AND AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED HAVE HIGHLY PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE THAT ADDITIONAL 1,000 TONS FOOD WILL BE NEEDED EACH MONTH BEFORE THE CRISIS ENDS.

4. UNDRO ESTIMATE INCLUDED ABOUT 140,000 TO 150,000 PEOPLE IN SOUTHWEST NOW COVERED BY CANADIANS, RED CROSS AND CRS. WE AGREE THAT THIS LEAVE ABOUT 100,000 UNCOVERED IN GROS MORNE AREA. PLEASE NOTE THAT POPULATION STATISTICS NOTORIOUSLY UNRELIABLE IN HAITI AND ESTIMATES OF NEEDY EXPRESSED AS PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION.

5. MISSION HAS BEEN CONCENTRATING ON IMMEDIATE NEEDS. NOW THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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FOOD IS COMING IN AND BEING DISTRIBUTED TO MOST AREAS IT IS TIME TO CONSIDER HOW ANOTHER FOOD CRISIS MAY BE PREVENTED NEXT YEAR. OUR PRESENT VIEW IS THAT WE NEED FOOD DISTRIBUTION AT LEAST THROUGH JUNE, JULY, AUGUST AT INCREASED RATE. AFTER HARVEST WE CAN DROP FOOD PROGRAM BACK TO USUAL LEVELS IN THE POOR AREAS. WE WILL NEED TO PROVIDE SEED AND POSSIBLY OTHER INPUT FOR FALL PLANTING. IF SHORT SEASON CROP NOW IN GROUND IS REDUCED, HIGHER LEVEL OF FOOD PROGRAMS MIGHT HAVE TO CONTINUE INTO EARLY 1978. WE MUST NOW REFINE DETAILS THIS CONTINGENCY PLANNING. FOR THIS AND OTHER NEEDS WE REQUIRE ANOTHER FFP OFFICER WITH EXPERIENCE IN WORKING OUT FOOD DISTRIBUTION PLANS WITH PVO'S. HE WOULD WORK ALMOST ENTIRELY ON GROS MORNE DISTRIBUTION. WE ALSO NEED A DISASTER RELIEF OFFICER WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM U.S. VOLAGS AS WELL AS ABILITY ASSESS FOOD NEEDS AND WORK WITH OTHER AGENCIES. DISASTER RELIEF OFFICER CAN ALSO HELP US IDENTIFY AND QUANTIFY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NORMALLY NEEDY IN THIS MOST POOR COUNTRY AND DISASTROUSLY NEEDY AS RESULT THIS YEAR'S CROP FAILURES. A FRENCH SPEAKING AGRONOMIST FAMILIAR WITH CORN, SORGHUM, BEANS IN TROPICAL AND

SEMI-TROPICAL CONDITIONS, IS NEEDED TO DEVELOP FALL PROGRAM.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: ARRANGE IMMEDIATE TDY ONE DISASTER RELIEF OFFICER, ONE FFP OFFICER, ONE AGRONOMIST. DRO SHOULD ARRIVE NLT MAY 31. FFPO BY END OF WEEK. AGRONOMIST WITHIN TWO OR THREE WEEKS. ISHAM

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTA01932
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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Litigation Codes:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DROUGHT ASSISTANCE
TAGS: EAID, SWEL, HA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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